

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 6, 7, 9, 10 and 19, and for indicating that claim 14 is objected to, but would be allowable if claim 14 is amended to be placed in independent form.

By the current amendment, Applicants amend claim 14 to place it in independent form, including substantially all the limitations of the base claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claim 14 is now in an allowable form, and respectfully request such an indication by the Examiner.

Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating that the drawings filed on August 11, 2003 are approved. However, the Office Action Summary (PTO-326 Form) indicates that corrected drawings must be filed with the current reply. Applicants submit that a Replacement Sheet of Drawings containing Figs. 4A, 4B and 5 was filed (along with annotated drawings) with the response filed on August 11, 2003, and thus, Applicants have complied with the requirement for submitting corrected drawings. The Examiner is respectfully requested to confirm that the corrected drawings (e.g., Replacement Sheet of Drawings) have been received.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 15 and 16 stand rejected in the final Office Action. In order to advance the prosecution of the present application, Applicants cancel, without prejudice, claims 1, 4, 5, 15 and 16, and thus, submit that it is not necessary to respond to the

rejections set forth by the Examiner. Accordingly, only claims 6, 7, 9, 10, 14 and 19 (previously indicated to be allowable), and new claim 20 (to be discussed below) remain pending. Cancellation of claims 1, 4, 5, 15 and 16 should not be taken as an acquiescence of the appropriateness of the rejection, but merely as a desire to advance the prosecution of the present application. Further, Applicants expressly reserve the right to submit similar type claims in another application.

While reviewing the allowed claims, Applicants noted a minor error in allowed claim 9. Applicants herewith amend claim 9 to change the first word of the claim from “The” to ---A---. Applicants submit that this amendment does not affect the scope of the claim, and respectfully requests the examiner to re-confirm the allowability of the claim.

Applicants also submit new claim 20 for the Examiner’s consideration. This claim is based upon allowed claims 9 and 10, but instead of specifying that the connection terminals are positioned at substantially a center of the mounting side surface of the multi-layer assembly (as specified in claim 9), claim 20 specifies that the connection terminals are positioned in symmetry with respect to substantially a center of the mounting side surface of the multi-layer assembly. Applicants note that support for this feature may be found, for example, at page 22, line 23 to page 23, line 8 of Applicants’ specification. Applicants submit that at least this feature is lacking from the art of record, and thus, respectfully request that the Examiner indicate the allowability of new claim 20.

Pursuant to M.P.E.P. §714.13, Applicants contend that entry of the present

amendment is appropriate because the response results in the application being placed in condition for allowance, or, alternatively, in better condition for purposes of appeal. Further, new claim 20 does not present any new issues that would require any further consideration or search by the Examiner, and the amendment cancels 5 claims while only adding 1 new claim. Accordingly, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the present invention as now defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

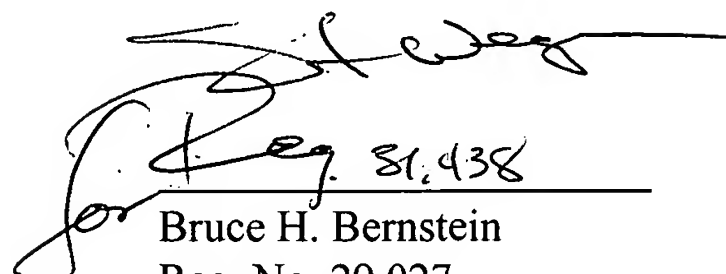
Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any extensions of time required to place the application in condition for allowance by an Examiner's Amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited

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to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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